

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AID-20 PC-04 OMB-01 IO-14 COME-00 EB-11

LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /151 W
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R 301511Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8730

INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS ADDIS ABABA 4798

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS PINT PGOV ET

SUBJECT: PRIMIN DIALOGUE WITH POLICE

REF: ADDIS 4374

1. PRIMIN APRIL 19 MET WITH ADDIS ABABA POLICE OFFICERS FOR DIALOGUE SIMILAR TO THAT WITH ARMY (REFTEL. PRIMIN PRAISED POLICE FOR MAINTAINING LAW AND ORDER DURING RECENT DISTURBANCES. ETHIOPIAN HERALD APRIL 30 CARRIED TRANSCRIPT QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ON THAT OCCASION. WE GIVE GIST BELOW BECAUSE OF ITS CONTINUING PERTINENCE IN CURRENT SITUATION.

2. Q: WHAT STEPS IS MINCOMMERCE TAKING TO CONTROL RISE IN COST OF LIVING?

A. EXTERNAL FACTORS HAVE EXACERBATED ETHIOPIA'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. IN FUTURE, IEG INTENDS TO INTERVENE IN GRAIN MARKET TO STABILIZE PRICES. LEGAL ACTIONS WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST HOARDERS AND SPECULATORS.

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Q: SHOULD NOT STATE OF EMERGENCY BE DECLARED TO DEAL WITH

(A) DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN TROUBLEMAKERS; (B) STRIKERS; (C) THOSE ATTEMPTING SOW DISUNITY IN ARMED FORCES; AND (D) THOSE WHO EXPOSE GOVERNMENT REFORM?

A: SO FAR THE CABINET HAS SHOWN GREAT RESTRAINT AND EVEN TOLERATED ILLEGAL STRIKES BY GOVERNMENT WORKERS. THESE STRIKES HAVE CAUSED UNREST THROUGHOUT COUNTRY AND OBVIOUS DAMAGE TO ETHIOPIA'S ECONOMY. GOVERNMENT STILL HOPES SETTLE MATTERS PEACEFULLY, HOWEVER, IF FORCED, WILL RELY ON ANY MEANS AT ITS DISPOSAL.

Q: IN POLICING RECENT DEMONSTRATIONS, SOME INTERPRET OUR ACTIONS AS AUTHORITARIAN WHILE OTHERS SEE OUR TOLERANCE AS SABOTAGE AGAINST NEW CABINET.

A: IT HAS BEEN A PROBLEM FOR US ALL. A MINORITY MUST BE ABLE TO VOICT ITS COMPLAINTS. HOWEVER, CONTEMPT OF THE LAW MUST NOT BE TOLERATED.

Q: THE OLD CABINET ORDERED POLICE TO SHED THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT CITIZENS, CAUSING PUBLIC BITTERNESS TOWARDS THE POLICE TO CONTINUE. THE PUBLIC EXPECTS MEMBERS OF THE OLD CABINET TO BE TRIED IN PUBLIC COURT FOR THESE CRIMES AND THOSE OF MALADMINISTRATION AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF GOVERNMENT MONEY.

A: THE LEGAL PROCEDURE FOR APPOINTED COMMITTEE OF INQUIRY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED TO PARLIAMENT. THE COMMITTEE HAS AUTHORITY TO BRING FORMER OFFICIALS TO TRAIL.
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